

The Violence and Injury Prevention Program



Staff Bios

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Teresa Brechlin
Program Manager

Teresa is responsible for the overall development, management and coordination of resources required to maintain the VIPP. This includes staff supervision, budget preparation and monitoring, coordination and monitoring of grant applications and state plans, and collaborating with other state and county agencies, programs, providers, community-based organizations and public and private health care providers.



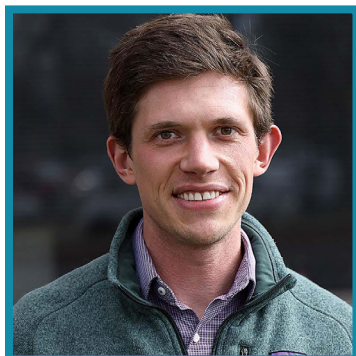
Akanksha Acharya
Suicide and Violent Death Epidemiologist

Akanksha co-chairs the data workgroup for the Utah Coalition for Opioid Overdose Prevention (UCO-OP). She conducts analysis from the Violent Death Reporting System for reports, fact sheets, and other projects to support the data needs of VIPP's partners in prevention.



Meghan Balough, MPH, CHES
Opioid and Falls Epidemiologist

Meghan is responsible for ensuring that all data requests, projects, and fact sheets developed by program epidemiologists are completed and released in a timely manner. She also conducts program and policy evaluation for several injury and violence topics, such as opioid overdose and older adult falls.



Stephen Barnes
Fatality Review Specialist

In January 2020, Steve Barnes transitioned from being a VIPP employee with the Statewide Information and Analysis Center to a Public Health Analyst with the CDC Foundation. He is assigned to Utah in the VIPP program where he is working on the National Opioid Response Strategy (ORS). Steve brings a background in epidemiology, biotechnology research, and academic research.

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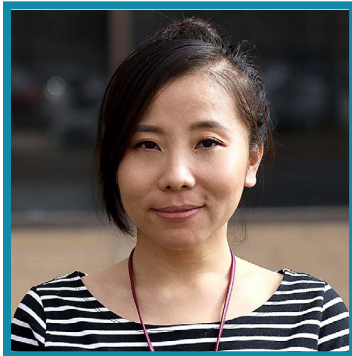
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Traci Barney, CBIST

Injury Prevention Coordinator and Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Specialist

Traci coordinates the Utah Brain Injury Council, Utah's TBI Advisory Board, the TBI Fund Advisory Committee and the SCI/BI Rehabilitation Fund Advisory Committee. She oversees the Utah TBI Fund and the Utah SCI/BI Rehabilitation Fund. She also manages a federal TBI Partnership grant and is a member of the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators and the State representative for TBI and SCI.



Wei Beadles

Alcohol Epidemiologist

Wei is an Alcohol Epidemiologist. She is responsible for studying Utahns drinking behaviors, and what it does to their health. She also has the responsibility of collaborating with community partners in alcohol policy and prevention efforts, identifying new binge and chronic drinking trends, and writing reports on her findings.



Hillary Campbell, B.S.

Student Injury Prevention Specialist and Data Abstractor

Hillary oversees and manages the student injury reporting system. She is responsible for quality assurance and training of new users who work with student services at the district level. Hillary is also responsible for abstracting data for the National Violent Death Reporting System for homicides, suicides, deaths that have undetermined manners and accidental firearm deaths.



Jason Clark, B.A.

Research Analyst

Jason is responsible for abstracting drug overdose data from medical examiner and police reports into the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System. He also collects data for the Opioid Fatality Review Committee.

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Deanna Ferrell, MPH, CPH
Injury and Sexual Violence Epidemiologist and Evaluator

Deanna coordinates the data abstraction team and VIPP's data surveillance projects. She also develops evaluation activities and completes data requirements for multiple intentional and unintentional injuries, including sexual violence, intimate partner violence, child abuse and neglect, traumatic brain injury, and motor vehicle crashes. Additionally, she focuses on strategic planning around shared risk and protective factors.



Vanonda Kern
Grants & Contracts Coordinator

Vanonda coordinates the processing of all VIPP grants and contracts which includes reviewing Federal, State, Department and/or Division requirements and ensuring compliance with those requirements.



Missi Leak
Administrative Secretary

Missi is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the program (mailing out materials to community partners, coordinating meetings, processing invoices, ordering materials, etc.). In addition, she assists with the Student Injury Reporting System.



Marty Liccardo, M.S.
Men's Engagement Specialist

Marty increases males involvement in violence prevention, particularly sexual violence prevention. Marty works with community and state partners on sexual violence work and specifically coordinates efforts with the Men's Anti-violence Network of Utah. He works on the Rape Prevention and Education grant and develops programming, technical assistance, and resources for Utah communities; including implementation of the Upstanding bystander intervention program.

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Karla Matheson
Law Enforcement Liaison

Karla requests police reports from all agencies in Utah for data entry into various violence and injury surveillance systems. She also provides administrative assistance for the program.



Nathan Malan, MPH
Child Injury and Death Epidemiologist and Evaluator

Nathan is responsible for the Essentials for Childhood and Sudden Unexpected Death/Sudden Death in the Youth Grant data. He works with members of the Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood to improve data collection and better guide prevention efforts of intentional and unintentional child death and injury. He also conducts analysis for report and fact sheet creation and oversees evaluation of those grant project efforts.



Katie McMinn, MSC
Media Coordinator

Katie oversees the communication efforts of the VIPP; managing the media contracts; coordinating the prescription drug overdose media campaign; creating and publishing public educational material; and maintaining the VIPP, naloxone, Utah Coalition for Opioid Overdose Prevention, and Stop the Opioid epidemic websites.



Amy Mikkelsen, MPH, CPH, CHES
Violence Prevention Coordinator and Suicide Prevention Specialist

Amy works with partners to provide guidance, support, and technical assistance in their suicide prevention efforts. Amy participates on multiple coalitions and workgroups providing her expertise in suicide prevention principles and evidence based strategies. She works with other state agencies to ensure both a comprehensive and collaborative approach to suicide prevention is implemented at the state level.

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Patricia Maloney
Research Analyst

Trish is responsible for abstracting drug overdose data from medical examiner and police reports and inputting data into the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS).



Gary Mower, MPH
Epidemiology Manager

Gary manages the National Violent Death Reporting System, Enhanced Surveillance of Opioid Morbidity and Mortality, and Alcohol Epidemiology grants.



Jerry Nelson, MPH, MBA
Firearm Injury Epidemiologist

Jerry is responsible for analyzing nonfatal firearm injury data from syndromic surveillance and other emergency department data sources. He tracks performance measures, prepares reports, fact sheets, and articles related to the FASTER (Firearm Injury Surveillance Through Emergency Rooms) grant. He is also responsible for implementing the evaluation performance and management plan.



Ynhi Nguyen, B.S.
Data Abstractor

Ynhi is responsible for abstracting Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Data for the TBI surveillance database. She also does abstractions for accidental overdoses in NVDRS as well as police reports for SUDORS cases.

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Lauren Radcliffe, MPH
Opioid Overdose Prevention Specialist

Lauren is responsible for working with local communities and providing technical assistance and guidance in their prevention efforts. She provides expertise in the opioid media campaigns and works with healthcare, law enforcement, treatment, recovery, and community partners to identify and implement evidence-informed strategies to address opioid abuse, misuse and overdose. She is also the Local Health Department Liaison and helps facilitate work and contracts.



Kacy Robinson
Fatality Review Specialist

Kacy coordinates the three Fatality Review Committees. She coordinates the Sudden Death in the Young Advanced Clinical Review Team. As coordinator, she is responsible for identifying cases for review; performing all research and record collection for review cases; meeting facilitation and collection of recommendations, which identify service gaps and populations vulnerable to violence/injury; and promote health and wellbeing for all Utahns.



Cristy Sneddon, RHIT
Data Abstractor

Cristy is responsible for training related to data abstractions in VIPP's various surveillance systems. She works with the epidemiologists to ready data and coordinate abstraction projects. She abstracts data for the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) gathering information for homicides, suicides, deaths of undetermined manner and accidental firearm deaths.



Tom Schleiffarth, B.S.
Media Specialist

Tom creates all of the digital media content for the VIPP. This includes developing social media posts, visual website content, live event coverage, as well video to be shared through multiple online channels.

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Joey Thurgood
Child Maltreatment Specialist

Joey Thurgood has worked in the field of child maltreatment prevention since 1998. From 2011 to 2018, she served as Fatality Review Coordinator for the Utah Department of Health and developed the State's Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Committee. Joey now serves as the Utah Essentials for Childhood (EfC) Coordinator. EfC is a CDC program focused on primary prevention of child maltreatment through focus on Social Determinants of Health.



Corryn Wermel
Safe Kids Director

Corryn coordinates comprehensive childhood injury prevention programs designed to prevent death and injury among children ages 0-14 throughout Utah. She provides direction to the 14 local Safe Kids Utah Chapters and Coalitions with funding, assessing needs and designing actions to meet those needs. Corryn assists with statewide community outreach, provides education and training on childhood injury prevention issues, and coordinates the statewide campaigns.